



J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 29, 2005

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – GIRLS AND  
BOYS TOWN OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, BOYS TOWN GROUP  
HOME**

We have completed a review of Boys Town Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Girls and Boys Town of Southern California, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Boys Town Group Home is a sixteen-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Boys Town Group Home was providing services for eleven Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Boys Town Group Home is located in the Fourth District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

The Agency is providing the treatment services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Boys Town Group Home needs to clean the carpet throughout the facility; replace the light fixture cover in the upstairs bathroom; replace the missing drawers from the vanities in bedrooms three and four; replace the missing handles on the drawers in bedroom three; repair or replace the window screen in bedroom three; and replace the broken blinds in bedroom seven.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

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[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer  
Keith Diedrick, Executive Director, Girls and Boys Town  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

Girls and Boys Town  
Boys Town Group Home  
350 West Wardlow Street  
Long Beach, California 90806  
Phone: (562) 427-1155  
License Number: 191601665  
Rate Classification Level: 11

## **I. Facility and Environment**

### **Method of assessment – Observation**

#### **Comments:**

Boys Town Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the carpet throughout the facility has dirt spots, and one of the bathrooms has a missing light fixture cover.

Generally, the children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate lighting, and storage space. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, vanities in bedrooms three and four have missing drawers. Also, in bedroom three, the handles on the drawers are missing, and the window screen is broken. In bedroom seven, the window blinds are broken.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

### **Recommendations**

#### **1. Girls and Boys Town Management:**

- a. Clean the carpet throughout the facility.
- b. Replace the light fixture cover in the bathroom.
- c. Replace the missing drawers from the vanities in bedrooms three and four.

- d. Replace the missing handles on the drawers in bedroom three.
- e. Repair or replace the window screen cover in bedroom three.
- f. Replace the broken blinds in bedroom seven.

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school.

The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

## **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

## **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

### **Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

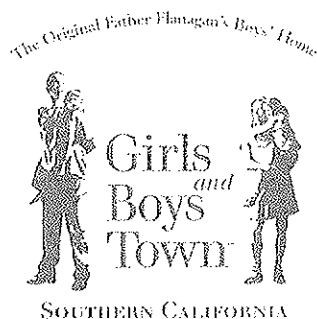
The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**



October 10, 2005

Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor  
Department of Auditor – Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A  
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Ms. Rhue,

Enclosed please find our corrective action plan in response to the audit report that came from your office dated October 5, 2005 at the Long Beach Assessment and Short Term Residential Program.

**I. Facility and Environment –**

**Recommendations**

**1. Girls and Boys Town Management:**

**a. Clean the carpet throughout the facility.**

Response: A work order has been generated and submitted to the maintenance staff requesting that the carpets be steam cleaned through out the facility. A cap item request for the purchase of new carpet has been submitted to the Finance Department for consideration at the next review of the budget for the upcoming year.

**b. Supply a sufficient number of glassware for the children.**

Response: Additional glassware has been purchased. This will be on the facility monitoring checklist that will be checked by the supervisory staff on a weekly basis.

*Girls and Boys Town of Southern California*  
A Non-Profit Corporation  
Incorporated in the State of California

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www.girlsandboystown.org



**c. Replace the light fixture cover in the upstairs beige bathroom.**

Response: The light fixture cover has been replaced. This will be on the facility monitoring checklist that will be checked by the supervisory staff on a weekly basis.

**d. Remove the water from the floor in the upstairs south side bathroom.**

Response: Water has been removed. This will be on the facility monitoring checklist that will be checked by the supervisory staff on a daily basis.

**e. Replace the missing drawers from the vanities in bedrooms three and four.**

Response: A work order has been submitted to replace the vanities. This will be on the facility monitoring checklist that will be checked by the supervisory staff on a weekly basis.

**f. Replace the missing handles on the drawers in bedroom three.**

Response: A work order has been submitted to replace the handles. This will be on the facility monitoring checklist that will be checked by the supervisory staff on a weekly basis.

**g. Replace the broken blinds in bedroom seven on the south side.**

Response: A work order has been submitted to replace the blinds. This will be on the facility monitoring that will be checked by the supervisory staff on a weekly basis.

**h. Repair or replace the window screen cover in bedroom three.**

Response: A work order has been submitted to repair/replace the window cover. This will be on the facility monitoring that will be checked by the supervisory staff on a weekly basis.

## **II. Program Services**

**Recommendations** There were no recommendations for this section.

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Recommendations** There were no recommendations for this section.

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Recommendations** There were no recommendations for this section.

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Recommendations** There were no recommendations for this section.

**VI. Personal Rights**

**Recommendations** There were no recommendations for this section.

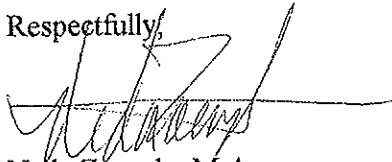
**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Recommendations** There were no recommendations for this section.

Program Director, Takisha McNeill, will ensure that the corrective action plan is implemented. Site Support Specialist, Brenda Lee, will oversee monitoring to ensure the corrective action plan remains implemented and is working as intended.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this corrective action plan please contact the Program Director, Takisha McNeill at (562) 533-4767.

Respectfully,



Neda Zaengle, M.A.  
Program Operations Manager

CC: Keith E. Diederich – President and CEO  
Takisha McNeill – Program Director  
Brenda Lee – Site Support Coordinator